

tures the external environments of man, it also sets forth his hopes and fears which are the outcroppings of his higher and better nature. If the Bible is a complex book, we do not overlook this fact, that the subject with which it deals is not less complex, or microcosmic. For man, absorbing as we do, something of all our environments, and through the faculties of faith and hope, in some un-explainable manner we often drink from streams whose fountains are veiled in mystery. So that after all the Bible is not so mysterious, as are its readers. Mankind, with appertinent genius of mind and cunning of hand, comprise the world. And the Bible was given to save the world, hence we should expect to find in it something for every one, and something of every one; their righteousness commended and their sins condemned. And this is the mystery of the Bible.

Wonderful book. History of a wonderful people. A river whose fountain head was in the garden of Eden, the cradle of the race. Its life giving waters flow on through the ages, wielding in its course a power unique and splendid.

There is nothing in all this world without a purpose; true to this rule, the Bible, as we might expect has a more divine purpose than all the other resources of the human mind. As all the rivers flow to the ocean, so to this mighty stream of spiritual life flows toward the fountain from which it has its source.

There are many great characters whose lives shine out through its pages, but there is one, so different from them all, and yet so eminently human, so lofty, and yet so lowly, so powerful, and yet so meek, that it was said of him, "that never man spake like this man," and we might also say, that never man lived like this man, for he gave his life for others, and never man prayed like this man, "not my will be done." He was the beginning, the fountain, the ocean of infinity; life flowed out from him. Man with all his faculties, and powers, hopes and joys, came from him who said, "let us make man in our own image." And in the current of human activity, that wonderful love has followed the ever varying progress of the human race with saving grace, and inspiring power through the law and the prophets, to the infinite truth, the life the way, into Jesus, "the Alpha and the Omega. The loftiest conception of the heart.

Wonderful book. History of man, providence of God. Food for the mind, hope for the soul, guide for the feet, *salvation for the world*. Teach it, preach it, sing it, a light to the soul, a guide to our earthly pilgrimage.

### LOOKING TO JESUS.

J. M. BOWMAN.

"When he saw the wind boistrous he was afraid." Matt. 14:30.

When Peter looked at Jesus he was not frightened by the waves, for he proposed of his own free choice that he be commanded to walk out into the storm.

Some good things for me, at least, have shown out of this incident. And especially so when I gather up with it the other good things that it suggests, and appropriate their lessons and take in their assurance. *Peter looked at Jesus and was not afraid.*

When the fig tree was dried up from its roots the disciples took note of it and mentioned it to Jesus on the next day. With wonders happening before them daily and often hourly, they still seemed unable to grasp the greatness of God's power to do what he might choose or see fit. They could not yet see in Jesus "all of the fulness of God." In reply to them he said, "Have faith in God." And then teaches them what power they may have by keeping their eye upon Him. We can't appropriate these promises when we think of the mighty things that they involve, but when we think of the "Mighty God" it seems much easier. And that is just the lesson Jesus meant to teach them in Mark 11:22-24. He strongly hints at the same truth in Luke 8:25, when they were in the tempest and much frightened. In reply to their expressions of fear he said, "Where is your faith?" Is it in the boat? In the storm? In your own ability to weather the gale? "*Where is your faith?*"

When we look at the infinite power of God surely there is ground for confidence. He who is planning an undertaking gathers up all of his resources and then no matter what the difficulties and hindrances may be when he is sure that his resources are great enough to overcome them. He goes right on with his work and accomplishes his purpose. It is not impossible to tunnel through a mountain of granite when the money, and men, and tools, and power and powder, and the purpose to do it are at hand. It is nothing to Peter to be sure that he can walk to Jesus on the storm-broken sea when he looks at him and thinks only of him. Peter could have this great faith without any warrant from Jesus, and proposed it himself. God's ability to do is not limited in any possible way. And surely when he makes promises and urges us to undertake work for him counting on his help we may wisely do it and then accomplish the work too. Paul's life and work is a marvel to us, but not so much of a one when

we hear him say "Christ liveth in me: and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20. So it is with the life and work of all men of God. "For it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his own good pleasure." Phil. 2:13.

"*Wherefore didst thou doubt?*" "and make this failure and begin to sink?" Looked at the storm and was frightened. The storm was not one bit worse when he swung down the side of the ship and the waves began to lash about him more closely, than when he looked out from the deck at Christ and said, "Bid me come unto thee on the water;" but now he is taken up with the storm. Then he looked at the Son of God. Now he looks at the storm. It would have been all right if he hadn't looked at the difficulties and become frightened. How is it that so often we begin work in strong confidence and then weaken in it and then fail? Sometimes we have begun without God in it at all, or without any bidding or word from God about it. Then often we undertake work with the full assurance that God will give his help. We have a clear vision of him and his will, and then after beginning, the difficulties multiply around us, and the storm rages, and the waves of hindrances roll at our feet, and we begin thinking of them and get frightened. Christian people are continually being frightened out of their wits and into failure and disgrace, because they are scared at difficulties when they ought to be holding on to God and paying no heed to the things that they conclude are impossible, and forgetting about God and his promises. If we are doing the Lord's work then be assured that all the storms that ever blew and all the waves that ever thundered upon the rocks and all the opposition that satan can possibly muster up and all the ten thousand discouragements that that many discouraged people can think of are just simply nothing. They don't deserve to be mentioned. Don't look at the waves, for you will surely be scared and lose your hold upon God and sink.

When we are sure that the Lord is with us to begin, then there can be no reason for turning back. When Peter was on deck the storm raged. When he reached the water the waves still rolled. The storm doesn't always become a calm as soon as we start for our work, but what of that? When Jehovah says so we can climb over the waves or wade through and come out on top. But we must take God at his word and go to work. We will surely be washed under and stranded if